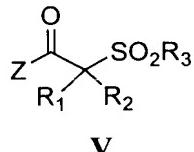


Please amend claims 1 and 15 to read as follows:

A method of preparing alpha-sulfonyl derivatives of the formula V:



DwB1
A/2
wherein Z is H, OH, -NYOX, -OR₅ or -NR₅R₆;

X is hydrogen, alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms, benzyl, hydroxyethyl, t-butyldimethylsilyl, trimethylsilyl or tetrahydropyranyl;

Y is hydrogen, alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms, aryl of 6 to 10 carbon atoms, 5-10 membered heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, NR₄, O and S, cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms, 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl; wherein said alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and cycloheteroalkyl group of Y is optionally substituted on any atom capable of substitution, with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms; alkenyl of 2-6 carbon atoms having from 1 to 3 double bonds; alkynyl of 2-6 carbon atoms having from 1 to 3 triple bonds, cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms, -OR₅, =O, -CN, -COR₅, perfluoroalkyl of 1-4 carbon atoms, -O-perfluoroalkyl of 1-4 carbon atoms, -CONR₅R₆, -S(O)_nR₅, -OPO(OR₅)OR₆, -PO(OR₅)R₆, -OC(O)OR₅, -OR₅NR₅R₆, -OC(O)NR₅R₆, -C(O)NR₅OR₆, -COOR₅, -SO₃H, -NR₅R₆, -N[(CH₂)₂]₂NR₅, -NR₅COR₆, -NR₅COOR₆, SO₂NR₅R₆, -NO₂, -N(R₅)SO₂R₆, -NR₅CONR₅R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)NR₅R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)N(SO₂R₅)R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)N(C=OR₅)R₆, -tetrazol-5-yl, -SO₂NHCN, -SO₂NHCONR₅R₆, phenyl, heteroaryl and 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl;

R₁ and R₂ are each, independently, aryl of 6 to 10 carbon atoms; 5-10 membered heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, NR₄, O and S; 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl; or R₁ and R₂ taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl ring; and wherein the aryl, heteroaryl, or cycloheteroalkyl, may be optionally substituted on any atom capable of substitution with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from halogen, alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms; alkenyl of 2-6 carbon atoms having from 1

*A 6
C 7*
to 3 double bonds; alkynyl of 2-6 carbon atoms having from 1 to 3 triple bonds, cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms, -OR₅, =O, -CN, -COR₅, perfluoroalkyl of 1-4 carbon atoms, -O-perfluoroalkyl of 1-4 carbon atoms, -CONR₅R₆, -S(O)_nR₅, -OPO(OR₅)OR₆, -PO(OR₅)R₆, -OC(O)OR₅, -OR₅NR₅R₆, -OC(O)NR₅R₆, -C(O)NR₅OR₆, -COOR₅, -SO₃H, -NR₅R₆, -N[(CH₂)₂]₂NR₅, -NR₅COR₆, -NR₅COOR₆, SO₂NR₅R₆, -NO₂, -N(R₅)SO₂R₆, -NR₅CONR₅R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)NR₅R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)N(SO₂R₅)R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)N(C=OR₅)R₆, -tetrazol-5-yl, -SO₂NHCN, -SO₂NHCONR₅R₆, phenyl, heteroaryl and 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl;

R₃ is alkyl of 1-18 carbon atoms, alkenyl of 2-18 carbon atoms having 1 to 3 double bonds, alkynyl of 2-18 carbon atoms having from 1 to 3 triple bonds, cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms, 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl, aryl of 6 to 10 carbon atoms, 5-6 membered heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, NR₄, O, and S; wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl and heteroaryl of R₃ may optionally be substituted on any atom capable of substitution with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from halogen, alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms; alkenyl of 2-6 carbon atoms having from 1 to 3 double bonds; alkynyl of 2-6 carbon atoms having from 1 to 3 triple bonds, cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms, -OR₅, =O, -CN, -COR₅, perfluoroalkyl of 1-4 carbon atoms, -O-perfluoroalkyl of 1-4 carbon atoms, -CONR₅R₆, -S(O)_nR₅, -OPO(OR₅)OR₆, -PO(OR₅)R₆, -OC(O)OR₅, -OR₅NR₅R₆, -OC(O)NR₅R₆, -C(O)NR₅OR₆, -COOR₅, -SO₃H, -NR₅R₆, -N[(CH₂)₂]₂NR₅, -NR₅COR₆, -NR₅COOR₆, SO₂NR₅R₆, -NO₂, -N(R₅)SO₂R₆, -NR₅CONR₅R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)NR₅R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)N(SO₂R₅)R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)N(C=OR₅)R₆, -tetrazol-5-yl, -SO₂NHCN, -SO₂NHCONR₅R₆, phenyl, heteroaryl and 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl;

R₄ is hydrogen; aryl; aralkyl, heteroaryl; heteroaralkyl, alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms; cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms; -C(O)_nR₅, -CONR₅R₆ or SO₂R₅;

R₅ and R₆ are each independently hydrogen, optionally substituted aryl; 4-8 membered heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, NR₄, O and S; cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms; 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl; alkyl of 1-18 carbon atoms; alkenyl of 2-18 carbon atoms or alkynyl of 2-18 carbon atoms; or R₅ and R₆ taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached may form a 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl ring; and

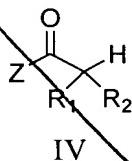
*P2
cont*

n is 1 or 2; or a pharmaceutical salt thereof,
which comprises reacting a sulfonyl fluoride of the formula III



III

wherein R_3' is as hereinabove defined for R_3 with the proviso that R_3' does not contain a group that can form an anion under basic conditions; with a carbonyl compound of the formula IV:



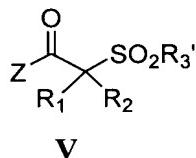
wherein Z is H, OH, YNOX, -NR₅R₆ or OR₅, and X, Y, R₁, R₂, R₅, and R₆ are as hereinabove defined; in the presence of a metal hydride or amide base in an ether organic solvent at temperatures from about -78°C to about 30°C to produce an alpha-sulfonyl carbonyl compound of formula V;

any reactive substituent group(s) being protected during the reaction and removed thereafter ; and further if desired isolating any chiral or stereoisomeric product as an individual isomer.

*Dab B1
P3*

15.

A method of preparing alpha-sulfonyl derivatives of the formula V:



wherein wherein Z is H, OH, -NYOX, -OR₅ or -NR₅R₆;

R₁ and R₂ are each, independently, aryl of 6 to 10 carbon atoms; 5-10 membered heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, NR₄, O and S; 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl; or R₁ and R₂ taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl ring; and wherein the aryl, heteroaryl, or cycloheteroalkyl, may be optionally substituted on any atom capable of substitution with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from halogen, alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms; alkenyl of 2-6 carbon atoms having from 1

A3
C17

to 3 double bonds; alkynyl of 2-6 carbon atoms having from 1 to 3 triple bonds, cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms, -OR₅, =O, -CN, -COR₅, perfluoroalkyl of 1-4 carbon atoms, -O-perfluoroalkyl of 1-4 carbon atoms, -CONR₅R₆, -S(O)_nR₅, -OPO(OR₅)OR₆, -PO(OR₅)R₆, -OC(O)OR₅, -OR₅NR₅R₆, -OC(O)NR₅R₆, -C(O)NR₅OR₆, -COOR₅, -SO₃H, -NR₅R₆, -N[(CH₂)₂]₂NR₅, -NR₅COR₆, -NR₅COOR₆, SO₂NR₅R₆, -NO₂, -N(R₅)SO₂R₆, -NR₅CONR₅R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)NR₅R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)N(SO₂R₅)R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)N(C=OR₅)R₆, -tetrazol-5-yl, -SO₂NHCN, -SO₂NHCONR₅R₆, phenyl, heteroaryl and 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl;

R₃' is alkyl of 1-18 carbon atoms, alkenyl of 2-18 carbon atoms having 1 to 3 double bonds, alkynyl of 2-18 carbon atoms having from 1 to 3 triple bonds, cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms, 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl, aryl of 6 to 10 carbon atoms, 5-6 membered heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, NR₄, O, and S; wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl and heteroaryl of R₃ may optionally be substituted on any atom capable of substitution with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from halogen, alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms; alkenyl of 2-6 carbon atoms having from 1 to 3 double bonds; alkynyl of 2-6 carbon atoms having from 1 to 3 triple bonds, cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms, -OR₅, =O, -CN, -COR₅, perfluoroalkyl of 1-4 carbon atoms, -O-perfluoroalkyl of 1-4 carbon atoms, -CONR₅R₆, -S(O)_nR₅, -OPO(OR₅)OR₆, -PO(OR₅)R₆, -OC(O)OR₅, -OR₅NR₅R₆, -OC(O)NR₅R₆, -C(O)NR₅OR₆, -COOR₅, -SO₃H, -NR₅R₆, -N[(CH₂)₂]₂NR₅, -NR₅COR₆, -NR₅COOR₆, SO₂NR₅R₆, -NO₂, -N(R₅)SO₂R₆, -NR₅CONR₅R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)NR₅R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)N(SO₂R₅)R₆, -NR₅C(=NR₆)N(C=OR₅)R₆, -tetrazol-5-yl, -SO₂NHCN, -SO₂NHCONR₅R₆, phenyl, heteroaryl and 5-10 membered cycloheteroalkyl; provided that R₃' does not contain a group that can form an anion under basic conditions; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises the steps of :

a) reacting a sulfonyl fluoride of formula III:



III

wherein R₃' is as defined in claim 1; with an enol ether of formula VIII: